

Application No. 10/502,416
Paper Dated December 20, 2005
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of September 20, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 0115-044591

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes new Figure 8. Figure 8 is provided to address the Examiner's objections to the drawings in the Office Action of September 20, 2005. No new subject matter has been introduced by this figure.

Attachments: New Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 17-35 were pending in this application. Claim 17 is amended and new claims 36-44 are added by the present amendment. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 17-44 remain in this application.

Claims 18-26 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in view of an earlier restriction requirement. Furthermore, it also appears that the Examiner has withdrawn claim 33 because claim 33 depends from withdrawn claim 23. The Applicant retains the right to present claims 18-26 and 33 in a divisional application.

Drawing Objections

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) because the drawings fail to show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. Specially, the Examiner contends that the structural details of the two optical plug-in connectors are not shown in the figures. The Applicant believes that new Figure 8 overcomes the Examiner's objections. Support for this new figure can be found on page 1, lines 10-12 of the specification, page 3, lines 25-32 of the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 17 and 27-32, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0007641 to Jovanovich et al. (hereinafter "the Jovanovich application"). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

As defined by independent claim 17, the present invention is directed to a sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve. The sleeve mount is provided in a coupling of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions. The sleeve mount further includes means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis. The means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

The Jovanovich application is directed to a capillary valve, connector and router including a first connector member 28a and a second connector member 28b joined by an adapter 30. The first connector member 28a has a first capillary 12a entering a ring 14a and extending into the rotatable ferrule 16a. The capillary 12a is fixedly attached within the rotatable ferrule 16a and terminates at the end 18a of the rotatable ferrule 16a. In a similar manner, the second connector member 28b includes a second capillary 12b entering a ring 14b and extending into the rotatable ferrule 16b. The capillary 12b is fixedly attached within rotatable ferrule 16b and terminates at the end 18b of the rotatable ferrule 16b.

The Jovanovich application does not teach or suggest a sleeve mount that includes “means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis” and that “the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount” as required by independent claim 17. The Examiner references Fig. 3 of the Jovanovich application on page 4 of the Office Action when commenting on the above-mentioned feature of claim 17. However, Fig. 3 of the Jovanovich application is an exploded view of connector member 28. While it is possible that an argument can be made that connector member 28 is equivalent to the claimed optical plug-in connector, connector member 28 is not equivalent to the claimed “means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis”. Fig. 3 does not illustrate a sleeve mount or any of the features of the sleeve mount such as a means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis. Furthermore, the Jovanovich application taken as a whole does not teach or suggest that the sleeve mount includes “means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis” and that “the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount”. While the Jovanovich application discloses an adaptor 30 and a cylindrical sleeve 230 with a longitudinal slit 232, the reference fails to provide a means for securing arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis as required by independent claim 17. A claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found in a single prior art reference. Therefore, the Jovanovich application fails to anticipated independent claim 17 because it does not teach or suggest a “means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis” and that “the means for

securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount”.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that the subject matter of independent claim 17 is not anticipated by the Jovanovich application. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-32, 34 and 35 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 17 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 17. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 27-32, 34 and 35 is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims

New claims 36-44 have been added by this Amendment. New claim 36 is in independent form, and new claims 37-44 depend therefrom. No new matter was added. Support for new claims 36-44 can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Independent claim 36 is also allowable over the Jovanovich application for the reasons discussed herein above with regard to independent claim 17. Independent claim 36 is further allowable because the Jovanovich application does not teach or suggest that the slit of a longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve engages the means for securing. Therefore, allowance of independent claim 36 is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-44 depend from and add further limitations to new independent claim 36 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with new independent claim 36. Allowance of claims 37-44 is respectfully requested.

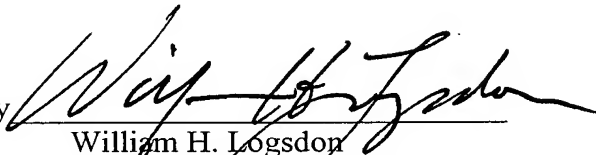
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 17, 27-32, 34 and 35-44 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

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